

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 AS-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

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R 181840Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6663

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS LONDON 17777

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SA, AO

SUBJECT: MULLER ON ANGOLA

1. FOLLOWING ADDRESS ON DETENTE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AT CHATHAM HOUSE NOVEMBER 18, SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER MULLER RECEIVED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON WHETHER SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS ARE CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN ANGOLAN FIGHTING. MULLER STATED CATEGORICALLY: "THERE ARE NO SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN ANGOLA." HE SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED THIS STATEMENT TO EXPLAIN A LIMITED MILITARY PRESENCE AROUND CUNENE DAM, UNDER AN EARLIER SAG-PORTUGUESE AGREEMENT, BUT CLAIMED THIS WAS EXTENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. WHEN ASKED ABOUT REPORTS OF C-130'S IN ANGOLA, MULLER SAID SOUTH AFRICA HAD PLAYED A LIMITED ROLE IN REFUGEE EVACUATION. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF PANHARD ARMORED VEHICLES, MULLER ANSWERED THAT SOUTH

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AFRICA IS NOT THE ONLY MANUFACTURER OF PANHARDS. WHEN

ASKED WHY SAG HAD CENSORED SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS REPORTS OF THE FIGHTING IN ANGOLA, MULLER SAID HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT WISH TO ENCOURAGE "SPECULATION" WHICH WOULD ONLY "UP-SET PEOPLE UNNECESSARILY."

2. COMMENT: IN OTHERWISE POLISHED AND PRACTICAL PERFORMANCE, MULLER'S DEADPAN DENIALS OF SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA SERVED TO INCREASE, RATHER THAN SUBDUE SPECULATION.

RICHARDSON

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